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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MIZUKI MURAMATSU

Application No.: 09/516,969

Filed: February 29, 2000

For: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD,
AND STORAGE MEDIUM

U.S. Patent No. 6,972,865

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Examiner: I. Rahimi

Group Art Unit: 2622

January 11, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*Approved for
scanning
TC 2600
2/15/06*

CITATION OF PRIOR ART IN PATENT FILE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.501

Sir:

Patentee respectfully submits the following prior art references for
placement in the application file.

- (1) Japan 07-154591
- (2) Japan 04-352082
- (3) Japan 10-320534
- (4) Japan 08-095915
- (5) Japan 11-053511

Documents (1) and (2) were cited during prosecution of a Japanese
counterpart application, namely Japan 11-215744, in an Office Action dated October 28,
2005. A copy of the Office Action is enclosed. Documents (3) to (5) were also cited

during prosecution of a Japanese counterpart application, namely Japan 11-053375, in an Office Action dated November 11, 2005. A copy of the Office Action is enclosed.

English language abstracts for each of the foregoing Japanese documents have been located and are also enclosed.

The foregoing documents are believed to be pertinent to the subject patent only by virtue of their having been cited in a foreign counterpart application. However, none of the references are believed to be material to the patentability of the patented claims for at least the reasons set forth below. It is noted that, while the foregoing references were cited in a foreign counterpart application prior to issuance of the subject patent, they were nonetheless cited well after the issue fee had been paid for the subject application. Accordingly, after reviewing the materiality of the documents and the status of the subject application in preparation for issuance as a patent, the Applicant determined that they would not have been able to withdraw the application from issue to have the reference officially considered by the Examiner. Therefore, the Patentee is submitting the references herewith for placement within the application file, along with the following discussion as to how the patented claims differ from the references.

Japan 07-154591

Japan 07-154591 is seen to relate to detecting whether a document is copy inhibited. A similarity is calculated and output to a decision section that compares the similarity with a threshold in order to determine if the document is copy inhibited. However, Japan 07-154951 is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, when it is determined that image data is specific data, outputting the image data in a lowest

resolution layer, wherein the image data enlarged in the lowest resolution layer to a predetermined size and the enlarged data is output.

Japan 04-352082

Japan 04-352082 is seen to relate to switching a binarization signal based on whether or not a document is copy-prohibited. If the document is copy-prohibited, the binarization signal is switched so as to output a low quality image, but if the document is an original, the signal is switched to output a high quality image. However, Japan 04-352082 is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, when it is determined that image data is specific data, outputting the image data in a lowest resolution layer, wherein the image data enlarged in the lowest resolution layer to a predetermined size and the enlarged data is output.

Japan 10-320534

Japan 10-320534 is seen to relate to comparing attribute information of a requested image with attribute information of images stored in a storage means. However, Japan 10-320534 is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, when it is determined that image data is specific data, outputting the image data in a lowest resolution layer, wherein the image data enlarged in the lowest resolution layer to a predetermined size and the enlarged data is output.

Japan 08-095915

Japan 08-095915 is seen to relate to providing a high quality image for payment of a royalty. However, Japan 08-095915 is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, when it is determined that image data is specific data, outputting the

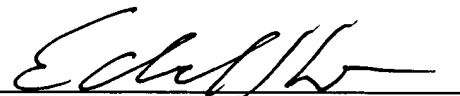
image data in a lowest resolution layer, wherein the image data enlarged in the lowest resolution layer to a predetermined size and the enlarged data is output.

Japan 11-053511

Japan 11-053511 is seen to relate to providing attribute information to an image comprised of images of different resolutions. However, Japan 11-053511 is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, when it is determined that image data is specific data, outputting the image data in a lowest resolution layer, wherein the image data enlarged in the lowest resolution layer to a predetermined size and the enlarged data is output.

Patentee's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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